

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT East Berlin Police: Reorganization
and Personnel Changes

DATE DIST. 6 Feb 51

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Reorganization of the Berlin Volkspolizei

The reduction in the T/O of the Berlin Volkspolizei for the year 1951 from 10,000 to 7,000 (the latter figure does not include the fire, apartment and factory guards) made a certain reorganization of the police necessary.* The most important changes in the police structure are as follows:

a. Abteilung V (Administrative Police) cedes further administrative tasks to the Magistrat of East Berlin. Abteilung V, which will be known as Abteilung Pass-und Meldewesen (PM) effective 1 January 1951, will be responsible for the administration of the following matters:

- 1) Identity documents, including the Deutscher Personalausweis and Interzonal Passes.
- 2) Registration of East Berlin residents, including management of the Residents' Registration Office (Einwohnermeldeamt).
- 3) Control of clubs and public assemblies, including registration and supervision in cooperation with the State Security Service and the Office for Information of the DDR.
- 4) Licensing and control of sale of poisons
- 5) Licensing and control of sale of explosives
- 6) Supervision of printed matter
- 7) Supervision, licensing, control and regulation of public houses selling alcoholic beverages.

Two matters previously administered by Abteilung V, nationality affairs and control of business enterprises, will come under the purview of the Ministry of the Interior and the East Berlin Magistrat, Abteilung Wirtschaft, respectively. The total number of police assigned to the new Abteilung is 590 as compared with the former number of 700. The chief of Abteilung PH is the

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Document No. 004
No Change in Class. ☐ 50X1-HUM
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
Auth: HR 70-2
Date: 17 July 78 By

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Inspekteur Grosskopf, and his deputy is Kommandeur Schrader.

b. The Factory Guard Section (both A and B guards) will be removed from the Uniformed Constabulary and will form a new department, Abteilung Betriebschutz. The chief of this department is not yet known.

c. Because of the transfer of the penal administration from the Department of Justice to the police, a new section, Abteilung Strafvollzug has been created. (This change is also reflected in the organization of the HV DVP, whose Hauptabteilung Haftachen becomes Hauptabteilung Strafvollzug). The head of the new section in the Berlin police is Kommandeur Wendt, formerly office chief of Inspektion Berlin-Mitte.

d. Abteilung Intendantur is divided into two sections. The Referate Communications (Nachrichtendienst (NTR)), Weapons and Munitions (Waffen und Munition), and Transport (Transportwesen) are joined to form a new section, Abteilung Technische Dienste (technical services), whose chief has not as yet been determined. (This same break-down applies to the HV DVP, whose Hauptabteilung Intendantur has been divided in the same manner). The other Referate of Abteilung Intendantur remain unchanged and retain the designation Intendantur.

e. Abteilung Kraftfahrzeug Inspektion (Motor Inspection) has been renamed Abteilung Verkehrspolizei (Traffic Police). The duties of the new department, except those to be transferred to the East Berlin Magistrat, Abteilung Verkehr und städtische Betriebe, remain the same as those which were executed by the former Abteilung Kraftfahrzeug Inspektion. The chief of the new section is Inspekteur Loeffler.

f. The chief of Operations is Inspekteur Engelbrecht, at present also the chief of the Uniformed Constabulary, which, however, is supposed to receive a new chief in the course of the reorganization.

g. For the fiscal year beginning January 1951, the Berlin Volkspolizei, with the exception of the Fire Department and the Factory Guards Section, will be included in the budget of the HV DVP and will no longer be paid entirely by the East Berlin Magistrat. The Fire Department will continue to be paid by the Magistrat while the Factory Guards will be paid by the individual firms.

2. It is also planned to reorganize the police Inspektionen and precincts on a completely new basis. The new concept will be initiated in the Treptow Inspektion on a trial basis effective 1 January 1951.

A. According to the proposed plan, the precincts will be organized on the following lines:

- 1 precinct chief
- 1 duty officer
- 1 telephone switchboard operator
- 1 deputy precinct chief and office manager
- 3 secretaries
- 8 to 12 investigators, depending on the size of the precinct.

B. The Criminal Police and Administrative Police sections are no longer directly represented in the precincts.

C. There is no provision for inclusion of regular patrolmen of the Uniformed Constabulary in the new precinct structure. Instead, this function of the Uniformed Constabulary will be executed at Inspektion level, where operative platoons of the Uniformed Constabulary will be activated. The number of these platoons assigned to each Inspektion will depend on the size and importance of the Inspektion. Those Inspektionen which include sections of the boundary between the Soviet and Western sectors rate as the most important.

D. Each constabulary platoon will comprise one officer and 27 men and will be directly responsible to the Inspektion command post. At those Inspektionen to which more than one platoon is assigned, the patrol duty schedule will be in accordance with the following plan: If three platoons are stationed at an Inspektion, one will be on duty status, one will be alerted, and the third will be off duty. If a fourth platoon is assigned, it will undergo

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training, to include political, technical, and military subjects. Each platoon will follow this schedule on an eight hour rotating basis.

E. The platoons will have two principal duties. Patrol of the precincts, formerly accomplished by patrolmen on foot, will now be done by the Inspektionen platoons formed into flying squads equipped with motorcycles, automobiles, and radio cars. Secondly, the platoon on alert status may be ordered at any time by the Inspektion command post to any point within the Inspektion where police action is deemed necessary.

F. The Criminal Commissariats of the Inspektionen will, after the dissolution of the precinct criminal offices and a planned decentralization of the Criminal Police, become the most important section of the Criminal Police. All criminal reports will be passed directly from the precincts to the Inspektionen where they will be handled. In line with their increased importance, the Criminal Commissariats will be strengthened.

G. In line with the police reorganization, 12 precincts are to be abolished, their areas to be joined to still-existing precincts.

3. The following personnel changes have been reported: Kommandeur Arndt, formerly office chief, Inspektion Friedrichshain, has replaced Wendt, office chief, Inspektion Berlin-Mitte. Arndt, in turn, was replaced by Kommandeur Albinsky, previously stationed at Weissensee, while Kommandeur Scheidereither, formerly with Abteilung Personal, was named office chief at Inspektion Weissensee.
4. Oberrat Neitzke has been appointed HQ Commandant (Haukommandant) for the East Berlin Polizeipräsidium.
5. The training battalion (Lehrbataillon) of the Berlin Volkspolizei was disbanded effective 8 December 1950. The duties of the battalion have been transferred to the Berlin Volkspolizei School, which has been moved from Oberschoeneweide to Berlin-Koepenick, Seelenbinderstr. 99. It is rumored that part of the former school buildings at Oberschoeneweide may be converted into a recreation center for the Berlin Volkspolizei.
6. Kommandeur Boehm, formerly Treptow Criminal Commissariat chief, later chief of Dezernat 5, Criminal Police Section, and then deputy chief of the Personnel Section, was transferred in November, 1950, to the State Security Service in Berlin. Heinz Marquardt, formerly chief of the Personnel Section, Berlin Polizeipräsidium and later transferred to the Ministry of State Security, is reported at present to be assigned to Hauptabteilung Heftsachen of the HVDVP and is stationed at the penitentiary in Brandenburg. Kommandeur Paech, previously assigned to the Uniformed Constabulary of the Berlin Volkspolizei and recently returned to the DDR from Moscow, has been appointed by Chef Inspekteur Erich Lust, Hauptabteilung Administrative Police of the HVDVP, to act as liaison officer between the Ministry of State Security and the HVDVP. Dr. Engelhardt, chief of the secretariat of the HVDVP, has been dismissed. His successor, whose name is unknown, is handling Engelhardt's duties on a temporary basis.
7. Heinz Kessler, secretary of the Central Council of the FDJ, has been given the rank of Generalinspekteur and is expected to head the Hauptverwaltung fuer Luftpolizei. He reportedly wears two stars to signify his position as chief of a Hauptverwaltung, giving him status equivalent to Heinz Hoffmann, Karl Maron and Valdemar Verner. Paul Markgraf, Wagner, former police vice president; Vogel, formerly a Chefinspekteur of the Hauptabteilung Uniformed Constabulary; Hermann Rentzsch, previously head of the Border Police of the GAI; and other returnees from the USSR are at present assigned as Inspekteure or Kommandeure to head various HVA Objekte. The position of chief of staff of the HVA, currently held by Chefinspekteur Bernhard Bechler, calls for the T/O rank of Generalinspekteur. Hans von Beech, HVA chief of supply, holds the rank of Generalinspekteur.

Comment: Some type of reorganization of the Soviet Sector police has long been planned by high police officials. 50X1-HUM

the implementation of economy measures throughout the Volkspolizei of the DDR necessitated some change in the police T/O and administration. A further factor, which comes to light in the new organization, was the desire of some high police officials to organize the East Sector police along the lines of the Moscow police.

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